

RIVER
VALLEY
SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2017 - 2018

RIVER VALLEY SCHOOL
BAG #6
SUNDRE, AB
TOM 1X0

SCHOOL COLORS: BLUE AND GREEN

PRINCIPAL
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the staff of River Valley School, I would like to welcome all of you. We hope that our time together this year is an exciting learning adventure for us all. This agenda is given to you to help you stay organized. Organization is one of the keys to success in school, so keep it in an accessible place so it is always easy to grab and use.

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL

Our school strives to help you learn the knowledge and skills necessary for living in the 21st century. This includes the social skills necessary to build solid relationships with other students and adults. Such skills include co-operation, leadership, a strong concept of self, acceptance of responsibility, and an honest understanding of your own strengths and weaknesses. We have a responsibility to help you learn respect for yourself, others and property and to become the citizens that will lead our community in the future.

We never want you to lose the sense of curiosity and wonder that drives us to learn, explore and discover. We wish to help you pursue excellence in order that you can take pride in your accomplishments when your best effort has been put forth. Each student should experience the pride that comes with having met challenges that are exciting and stimulating.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Report Cards

Report cards are issued three times per year. Check the school calendar for the dates. Use the information on the report cards to determine your strengths, and to identify what you want to improve on for the next term.

Achievement Awards

There are some very special awards for students in grades 6, 7 and 8 that are presented at the end of each term and at the end of the year for students who have distinguished themselves in the areas of academics, citizenship, band, leadership, and in extra-curricular athletics. Eagle awards are based on a rubric completed each reporting period focused on behaviors that help ensure success in school. The first award earned by a student each year will be a Bronze Award, the second will be a Silver Award and the third earned each year will be a Gold Award. Ask your teacher for details!

Eagle Awards (Grade 2-4) / Caught You Doing Good Awards (Grade 5-8)

Teachers nominate students who are deserving of immediate recognition for improved behaviour, attitude, good sportsmanship, academic and other criteria. Students' names are placed in the office and a Growly Certificate is awarded every day.

Homework and Assignments

In all academic subjects, you will be expected to complete daily work and larger projects which may require some study and work at home. When you finish assignments and hand them in, your teacher can tell what you have learned and can see where you may require extra assistance, therefore it is important that you use your classroom time well so homework is manageable.

SCHOOL SERVICES

Telephone

Telephones are located in each classroom and may be used by students with teacher permission. Please make your after school plans before coming to school. A courtesy telephone is located outside the office which you may use before classes in the morning and after hours. During the school day you need teacher or office permission to use the courtesy phone. Please keep calls brief and courtesy on the phone is expected at all times.

Library/ Learning Commons: A whole school approach to building a participatory learning community

As we move forward with the Learning Commons philosophy, the physical library space and philosophical approach to the use of this space will continue to change and evolve. The space will continue to house a large collection of books, digital and audio-visual materials to support the curriculum and provide recreational reading for students. The space is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Stay tuned for a variety of new ideas and plans being implemented in this zone - and please feel free to share your ideas with us as well - it is after all, all about your learning! Most importantly, we need cooperation and respect to be shown while using the space, as many different groups may want to access resources or be engaged in various activities in the space at the same time.

Locks and Lockers

All students will be assigned to a locker. All lockers for Grade 6 to Grade 8 students must have school locks on them. At the start of each year, you will be called down to the office to either purchase a lock or to re-register your lock for your new locker.

You are responsible for taking care of your own property. It is very important that you do not share your locker combination with anyone. Please do not bring valuable items or large amounts of money to school. Lockers are not foolproof and the school accepts no responsibility for property stolen from them. Please remember that all lockers are the property of the school, and administration has access to them at all times.

Growly

The Growly is our lunch counter, and it serves grade 7 and 8 students daily. Grade 2 to 6 students can use the Growly and the vending machines only on their designated day. To help the Growly operate smoothly, please:

1. Follow directions of supervisors.
2. Stand patiently in single file while you wait your turn to order.

Beverage/Snack Machines

There are beverage and snack machines located in the Common Area by the Growly and in the grade 6-8 hallway. Drinks may be purchased only at break times. Nutritious snacks may be purchased from the bottom tray of the vending machine until 11:30 am, at which time the full range of snacks become available. Everyone likes a treat once in a while, but we always encourage students to make healthy snack choices. If a machine appears to be out of order, please go to the office and ask for assistance - these machines are very expensive and we need to treat them accordingly.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

General

River Valley School operates on the belief that each student is responsible for their behavior and all students have the right to learn. In order to be a productive learning environment, a school must be a safe place for students and without disruptive behavior. Home and school must share the responsibility for teaching children acceptable behavior.

Section 31 of the Alberta Education Act clearly lays out student responsibilities. It says you must:

- a) Attend school regularly and punctually,
- b) Be ready to learn and actively engage in and diligently pursue your education,
- c) Ensure that your conduct contributes to a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging,
- d) Respect the rights of others in the school,
- e) Refrain from, report and not tolerate bullying or bullying behaviour directed toward others in the school, whether or not it occurs within the school building, during the school day or by electronic means,
- f) Comply with the rules of the school and the policies of the board,
- g) Co-operate with everyone authorized by the board to provide education programs and other services,
- h) Be accountable to your teachers and other school staff for your conduct, and
- i) Positively contribute to your school and community.

Consequences for misconduct will be natural and logical whenever possible. Each case will be considered on its own merit with consideration given to age and maturity level of the children. Whenever appropriate, your parents will be informed of the consequences and misconduct. Discipline may include temporary removal from activities, assignment of alternate activities or detention. For serious concerns and misbehavior, the school administration team, teachers and parents will meet to discuss the concerns and formulate a plan of action. Serious conduct could include an in or out of school suspension or expulsion from school.

School Expectations

1. You are responsible to the school for your actions when travelling to and from school.
2. You are expected to enter and exit the school through your designated doors.
As your teachers are busy preparing for the day, you need to wait outside for the morning bell unless a supervisor instructs you to go inside because of extreme weather.
3. If you are dropped off in the loop at the front of the school, please go around the building and enter through the appropriate door.
4. Check in at the office if you are late or have to leave class or school for any reason before the end of the day so we don't go looking for you.
5. Stay on the school grounds at all times unless supervised by a staff member.
6. You will learn better if you get some fresh air and exercise. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather as all students are expected to be outside for recess periods.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited (this list is not an exhaustive list, but only provides samples):

1. possession and/or use of drugs, tobacco and alcohol either at school or to and from school.
2. use of profanity.
3. defiance of school staff.
4. fighting.
5. possession or downloading of pornographic materials.
6. bullying, humiliating or harassing others, including through digital means
7. possession of matches, lighters or laser pointers.
8. possession of weapons or pretend weapons - this includes wearing accessories made from weapons

9. any of these issues that occur beyond the school day but which impact schooling or a student's emotional or physical well-being while at school may be addressed.

Care of School Property

You are responsible for helping care for school property, including desks, books, material, equipment, other furnishings and the building. Any vandalism shall be regarded as a serious offence. If you do this, you will be held responsible for repairing the damage. Students are expected, as a matter of trust, to care for all materials loaned to them.

Dress Code

You need to be dressed appropriately for school. Clothing worn to school should be appropriate for an educational setting. Beachwear, short shorts/skirts, and clothing with drug, alcohol, sexual or violent references are not appropriate in a school setting. Tops and bottoms should not leave undergarments exposed. Please remove hats and hoods when entering the school as a sign of respect. We appreciate your good judgment in this area.

The school administration reserves the right to make the final decision on what is or is not acceptable. In the event that what you are wearing is considered unacceptable, you may be asked to go home and change, or to find more suitable attire. **River Valley School's clothing policy is conservative. If you believe the outfit is questionable - DO NOT WEAR IT TO SCHOOL.**

Additional dress requirements:

Suitable gym clothing (including a school t-shirt for gr 6-8 students) is required for gym classes.

For safety reasons you need to wear shoes in school. Students require two pairs of shoes, one for indoors and a second for outdoors. To help keep our school clean and safe, outdoor shoes that are dirty or wet must be removed when you enter the school.

Bicycles/Skateboards/Rollerblades/Scooters/Heelies/Wiggle or Hover Boards

If you ride your bike to school, please be sure it is locked and in the bike racks. These racks are off-limits during school hours to help protect your property. Bicycles, skateboards, scooters, hover boards, heelies and rollerblades cannot be ridden on the school grounds and parking areas during school hours.

Electronic Devices

Devices such as iPods, cell phones and tablets may be used only in classrooms and only with the permission of the teacher. Devices should **NOT** be used in hallways. Using electronic equipment such as cell phones, cameras and stereos in a manner that disrupts learning or invades the privacy of others is also prohibited. **Due to FOIPP regulations students may not take pictures or videos of each other at school.** The penalties for misuse of digital equipment, including cameras and/or cell phones include warnings, confiscation, suspension or expulsion. Note that the *Chinook's Edge School Division Technology Responsible Use Terms and Conditions Document* applies to personal devices as well as school owned technology.

Student Involvement

River Valley School offers a great variety of activities for students to get involved in. Fine Arts programs such as band, and after school sports, leadership activities and dances provide students with opportunities to have fun and be active. The emphasis in all these activities is on participation and all students are encouraged to come on out and have some fun!

Family School Wellness

There are many people in RVS who you can talk to if you have trouble or are stressed about an issue. This list includes your current teacher, a past teacher or adult you trust, someone in the office or our Family School

Wellness Worker. Our FSWW will introduce herself to your class early in the year. Her office is upstairs in Rm 205. There are a lot of people who can help, but we can't help if we don't know you need it, so please come talk to us if you need support.

Commitment Statement

To make River Valley School an outstanding school, we all need to commit to being our best. Students, parents and staff commit to:

- taking pride in myself, in my work, and in my school;
- being kind to all people by showing respect;
- finishing all assignments by trying my best;
- taking care of school property;
- having a positive attitude about learning;
- using respectful language;
- dressing appropriately for learning;
- coming to school on time and prepared to learn; and
- sharing school information and assignment information with my family.

Grade 6, 7 and 8 Eagle Award Rubric

	Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Excellent
Organizational Skills	Frequently needs assistance in bringing materials to class, organizing information	Usually brings materials to class, collects and organizes information	Consistently has materials ready for class, collects and organizes information; applies these skills with and without teacher direction
Uses Time Effectively	Frequently requires reminders and assistance to use their time effectively	Often uses class time effectively	Consistently uses class time effectively without need for direction from the teacher
Assignments	Frequently requires reminders or incentives to complete assignments	Usually completes assignments	Consistently completes assignments on their own initiative
Engagement	Frequently requires prompting to contribute to class by offering ideas and asking questions	Usually is proactive in contributing to class by offering ideas and asking questions	Consistently and without prompting contributes to class by offering ideas and asking questions
Citizenship	Frequently requires teacher guidance in appropriate behaviour	Respects the rights of others without requiring prompting or guidance	Consistently respects the rights of others; these behaviours are practiced inside and outside of the classroom
Teamwork	Frequently requires assistance and prompting to participate effectively in class/group activities	Usually participates well in class/group activities	Consistently participates well in class/group activities and assumes leadership roles when needed
Promptness	Frequently requires assistance and incentives to be on time for class	Usually is on time for class	Consistently on time for class without prompting or incentives